

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2378  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
ANGANWADI PROGRAMME  
RATNA SINGH;SHIVAJI MANE

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Anganwadi Programme has been successful all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken to make the programme more effective and to ensure its wide coverage; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is the world's largest community based child development programme. The Scheme is sanctioned for 5652 Projects, of which 4903 Projects became operational as on 31.3.2003, providing services to about 388 lakh beneficiaries, comprising of about 322 lakh children below 6 years and about 66 lakh expectant & nursing mothers through a network of about 6 lakh Anganwadi Centres. The remaining 749 pending projects are envisaged to be operationalised during the X Plan period.

A nationwide evaluation of the ICDS Scheme conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1998-99 revealed significant impact of the Scheme:

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1000 live births was lower in ICDS areas as compared to ICDS plus Non-ICDS areas (NFHS-I & II) all States, except Bihar.
- More than 74% of the children were immunized against the six major diseases, namely, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis.
- On an average about 90% of women who had reported child birth during last one year had received Tetanus Toxoid vaccination.
- Anganwadi Centres have played a significant role in creating awareness about ante-natal care.
- Nearly 43% of beneficiary women had availed of health checkup and 24% of women had availed of referral services.
- Community leaders were generally satisfied about the functioning of the Anganwadi Centres and found the programme beneficial to the community.

The Scheme has been continued in the Xth Plan with no expansion activity in view of resource constraints. However, with a view to optimising coverage of beneficiaries within the available resources, States have been requested to review and relocate Anganwadi Centres, wherever appropriate, within the overall ceiling of existing Projects and Centres.

Improvement is a continuous process. Several measures have been taken during the past few years to make the delivery of services under the Scheme more effective and result oriented. With concerted efforts, the supplementary nutrition beneficiaries have increased from about 290 lakh in March 2001 to about 388 lakh in March 2003 with beneficiaries per Anganwadi Centres increasing from 70 in March 2001 to 83 in March 2003.